



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

August 2014

SOWINGS

Lately I've been using the phrase "going down the rabbit hole" to explain what I do during my free time. What do I mean by that? To me it means just wandering around the internet with no real goal in mind to explore and experience something that I may not have normally done. YouTube is a place where you can get lost easily, as once you finish watching a video – there's a bunch of other somewhat related one you just need to take one click to see. Wikipedia, Internet Movie Database, Good Read and other sites like them are good places where you can follow one topic to another and learn little trivial things. My favorite example was when I wanted to see a video clip of a standup comic I enjoyed. By just following the suggestions on things to watch, I found some good tips on how to be a better improviser and how to be a better presenter. I wasn't looking for self-improvement, but by being open to the experience, I learned something new.

This isn't a new idea by any means, but so much of people's lives today are stuck in a schedule. Common wisdom is that to succeed you need to schedule every little thing and have clear cut goals to accomplish with every waking moment. The grind must continue at all costs! The problem is that you cut serendipity & curiosity out of your life. Having an active mind and asking questions helps keep the thought processes sharp. Details and patterns can be seen easier when the mind is primed to be curious about the world around it.

Library shelves were one of the earliest rabbit holes, albeit at a much slower pace than the website of today. You could start on one book, and when finished you would be able to see others next to it on the shelf or in the card catalog. Even just walking down the aisles and picking up any title that caught your eye could take you to new places or learn about something you never know you wanted to know.

What else can libraries do to help sustain curiosity among the people who use our services? What can you do to feed your own curiosity? What's the best "rabbit hole" you've ever followed? Let us know what you think on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Southeast-Library-System/173462109353014>

Scott Childers, Executive Director
Southeast Library System

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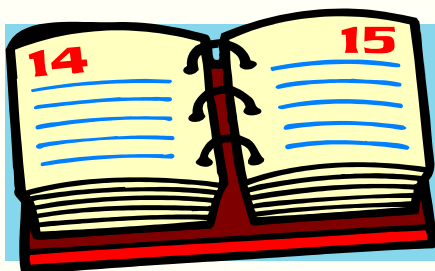
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CALENDAR

August 2014

August 10th-13th—Perseid Meteor Shower

August 12th—Vinyl Record Day

August 14th—Southeast Library System Annual Meeting & Open House (see [pg. 7](#) for details)

August 16th—World Honey Bee Day

August 21st—CASTL Meeting at Tecumseh Public Library

August 24th—Pluto Demoted Day

August 25, 1939—*The Wizard of Oz* released in theaters

August 27th—Burger Day

September 6th—Read a Book Day

September 8th—International Literacy Day

September 11th—Patriot Day

September 17th, 1787—Signing of the US Constitution

September 18th—CASTL Meeting at Geneva Public Library

September 19th—Talk Like a Pirate Day

September 25th—Comic Book Day

Photo of the Month



The Pawnee City Public Library float won first place in its division in the Pawnee County Fair parade. This is the second year Mongo the gorilla has been part of the library's float.

SELS Friends Scholarship Available

The SELS Friends scholarship is back, for those interested in attending a conference or event in the near future. The application deadline is August 30th. Visit the web site for all the details:

<http://selsfriends.org/scholarship.html>



The 20th Annual

SELS/ELS Youth Services Retreat

Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center, Ashland
September 4th & 5th - 8:30 am

Registrations due by
August 21st

- Share ideas and programs
- Wonderful food and a relaxing atmosphere
- 10 Hours of CE

Thursday

Working with Homeschoolers & Their Parents

Mini-Makerspace for Teens & Tweens

Power of Rhythm and Story

Working with Babies & Toddlers

Building Your Teen Program

Friday

Defusing Difficult Situations

Dealing with Supervised Visitation

Great Books for Kids

Healthy Kids, Bright Futures

Poster Session

Share program
ideas that work!

Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Roommate: _____

(or we can match you up)

Please check one:

___ Thursday only, includes lunch \$50

___ Friday only, includes lunch \$45

___ Both days with overnight, double
occupancy \$125 (includes all meals)

___ Both days with overnight, single
occupancy \$155 (includes all meals)

Late payments accepted but **you must have your registration in by August 21st** to reserve your spot.

Send registrations with checks payable to ELS:

Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 18, Omaha, NE 68144 or email: bmaass@windstream.net

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

August 21
Tecumseh

September 18
Geneva

October 17
Nebraska City

November 13
Friend

December 19
York

July's CASTL took place at Fall City Library and Art Center, hosted by Director Hope Schawang and her staff. We started the day with our traditional round robin. There was some interesting talk about a "Knox Box" that Falls City installed. This is a wall mounted safe placed on the exterior of the building that contains keys and plans to the building in case of an emergency.

Another interesting idea brought up was the idea that the SELS office would purchase a people counter that libraries could borrow for a period of time to do door counts, or to test. Scott & Wendy will explore that option and see if there is a model that can be easily installed and removed without doing damage to the unit or the library.

The afternoon's discussion was on unattended person's policies. 6 example policies were handed out, One from Seward Memorial Library, one from Fairbury Public Library, and 4 from libraries across the nation. It was pointed out that one of the first steps that should be done is to refer to any current city policy or ordinance on public buildings.

One key point of unattended person's policies is that the policy has to have some "action" in them. You can say that you can't have kids under the age of 3 in the building without supervision, but the policy is useless if you don't say what will happen if it that child is in the building without supervision. Does the staff call the police or a social worker? Do they look for a parent or caretaker? How long do they do that? Who is authorized to act? Have a consequence for that behavior listed in the policy.

Another strong suggestion was to fight the urge to just make it unattended children. More and more libraries are having elderly or vulnerable adults just dropped off, just like children, with no one to help them. (For a good description, look at the end of the Akron-Summit County Public Library's policy located at: <http://akronlibrary.org/policy/unattendedchildren.pdf>)

Two questions were sent in for discussion by someone who couldn't attend:

1. A parent who sends their 6-year-old into the library while the parent sits in the car in the parking lot. The child comes and goes to talk to the parent but mostly just wanders in the building.
2. A social worker conducting a family visit in the library with mom, dad, and one grandparent with a baby and 2-year-old. The 2-year-old runs and squeals all around the building, including the back room. When I talked to the parents who came in the back room to retrieve the child they were very defensive. Did not seem to understand that it was their responsibility to keep the child out of the library workroom. What is a librarian to do?

For both questions – we will assume that policy is already in place. If there was no appropriate policy, then the librarian would not be in a position to do much about either of the situations.

For the first question, it was the consensus of the group that this child is probably still unattended, as the parent is not in the building proper. You may want to clarify this in the policy.

The second question could also be an unattended children issue. A few of the sample policies have this young a child needing to have the caretaker with the child at all times. Most felt that in this particular case, approaching the social worker directly would be appropriate after the parents were not cooperative, especially if it was already in your policy that a call to social services would be the consequence of an unattended child.

The book talk theme for this meeting was "Books you have read since the last CASTL." The list of books mentioned during the round robin can be found at: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/77278.CASTL_July_2014

News Around the System

Staying Healthy With Fit4Seward

By Megan Boggs

Seward Memorial Library is the proud recipient of a wellness grant for \$5,500 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska for the Fit4Seward program that launched in July. Adults and children ages 6 and up can get stamps and earn prizes for visiting Seward parks, checking out fitness equipment from the library, attending health-related programs and doing other fun activities. After earning 30 stamps, participants are entered into the grand prize drawing for a new bike!

The grant money allowed the library to purchase several pieces of equipment available to check out including ankle/wrist weights, pedometers, tennis sets, resistance bands and several yard games such as croquet, horseshoes and ladder golf. The library also purchased an Automated External Defibrillator and will offer training to the public on how to use it in an emergency situation.

The library partnered with the City of Seward Recreation Department, Four Corners Health Department, and Memorial Health Care Systems to offer a variety of health and fitness programs this summer including How to Read Nutrition Labels, Using Pedometers, Bike Helmet Fitting, Learn to Play Disc Golf and more!

This program ends September 30, but will return in the summer of 2015. For more details visit the website at www.fit4seward.org.



Fitting bike helmets in front of the library.



From left to right: Seward Mayor Josh Eickmeier, Friends of Seward Library president Jeanie Hecker, Library Director Becky Baker and Blue Cross Blue Shield representatives.



Save the date!

The Summer Reading Workshop will be held November 7, 2014, in Lincoln, NE.
More details to come in next month's newsletter!

Art Gallery Opening in Former Library



Old Library Gallery interior, courtesy of the gallery website.

The historic Carnegie library building in Pawnee City will be re-opening soon as an art gallery and studio space. It was originally built in 1907, and served as the library for many years. In 2012, Thom Hunt began restoration efforts to create an artistic space out of the former library, where artists can both create and display their work.

The tentative grand opening date will be Friday, September 26, 2014 from 6 to 10pm. It will feature a showcase of contemporary art, as well as a wine tasting provided by Schilling Bridge. For more details, please visit their website, <http://www.oldlibrarygallery.com>.

Tidbits & Fast Facts

- ➔ Wahoo Public Library, whose building had significant water damage earlier this year, will be moving back in on August 15! The library will re-open after Labor Day. Wahoo will be joining our service area as part of the transition.
- ➔ Need a ride to conference this year? Got an extra seat or two in your car and wouldn't mind picking someone up? Sign up at <http://www.rickyrides.com/nlansla-annual-conference> and let others know.

Summer Readers Collect Food for the Food Bank

By Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library Summer Readers collected food for the Western Otoe County Food Bank. Accepting the donation of food are Food Bank volunteers – Wilma and Ted Halver-son .



Revisiting the Life & Legacy of Annie Oakley

By the Fairbury Public Library

Charlotte Endorf had an attentive audience for



her talk on The Life and Legacy of Annie Oakley at the Fairbury Public Library the last evening in July. The audience learned some interesting new facts about this familiar western figure. Her presentation was arranged through the Humanities Nebraska speakers bureau and funded by the Fairbury Library Foundation.

SELS Annual Meeting & Open House

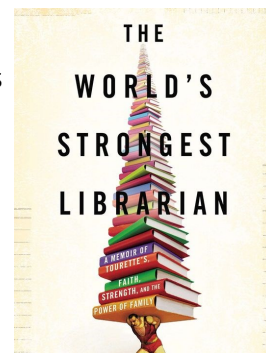
Southeast Library System will have its Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 14, from 1pm to 3pm, at the new SELS office, 5730 R St. Suite C-1 (across the hall from the previous office). Please RSVP if you'd like to attend; just send a message to selsne@gmail.com. All are welcome to join!

After the meeting, there will be an open house for the new SELS office, from 4pm to 6pm. There will be refreshments, snacks, and door prizes, including free registration for either the SELS Summer Reading Program or the Training Extravaganza! Stop by and say hi!



One Book, Many Librarians

At the Nebraska Library Association conference this October, Southeast Library System will host the 11th annual "One Book, Many Librarians" book discussion. It will be held Thursday, October 9th at 3:30pm; see the conference program for room details.



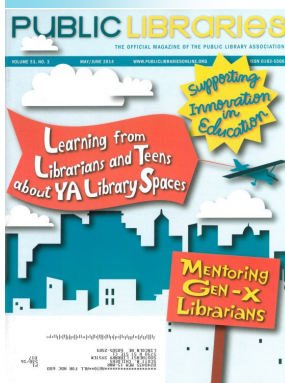
This year's discussion title is Josh Hanagarne's *The World's Strongest Librarian: A Memoir of Tourette's, Faith, Strength, and the Power of Family*. As part of the book discussion, there will be free wine! Stop by for good conversation and a bit to drink while exploring a good book!

Enroll In Journal Article Request Service

Sign up today for SELS' digital alternative to journal routing—requesting relevant articles from your favorite professional journals via email! Once a new professional journal arrives at the SELS office, we will scan and distribute the table of contents via email. From there, you can request the articles you'd like to read the most. We'll scan and send them to you as soon as we can.

Scanned copies of articles can be shared amongst staff, volunteers, and board members, they are not for general distribution and circulation. We'll complete article requests as soon as possible, but please allow up to three business days, in case the SELS staff is away at meetings.

All the journals shown below are currently available for enrollment! To enroll, send a message to selsne@gmail.com and let us know which journals you're interested in.



Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •
Richardson • Saline •
Seward • Thayer • York

Editors

Scott Childers
Wendy Mackey

Mailing Address

5730 R St., Ste. C-I
Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone Numbers

Local: 402-467-6188
Toll Free: 800-288-6063

E-mail

wendy.mackey.sels@gmail.com
selsne@gmail.com

Website

<http://www.selsne.org>

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*"It's amazing that the amount of
news that happens in the world
everyday always just exactly fits
the newspaper."*

-Jerry Seinfeld

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.